

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

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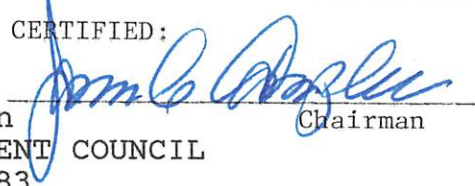


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MINUTES

CERTIFIED:


Chairman

56th Plenary Session
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
September 28-29, 1983
Old Federal Building
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council convened its 56th plenary session on Wednesday, September 28, 1983 at 9:30 a.m. at the Old Federal Building, Anchorage, Alaska and adjourned at 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 29.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee met at the Old Federal Building on Monday, September 26 and Tuesday, September 27, 1983.

The Advisory Panel met at the Old Federal Building on Tuesday, September 27 and continued meeting on the morning of Wednesday, September 28.

Council members, Scientific and Statistical Committee members, Advisory Panel members and general public in attendance are listed below.

Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
Harold E. Lokken, Vice-Chairman
Robert McVey
Rudy Petersen
Jeffrey R. Stephan
Chris Dawson for
Ray Arnaudo
Sara Hemphill

RADM Richard Knapp
Robert U. Mace for
John Donaldson
Don Collinsworth
Gene Didonato for
Bill Wilkerson
Keith Specking
John Winther

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman
William Aron
Don Bevan
Bud Burgner

John Clark
Larry Hreha
Jack Lechner

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Advisory Panel

Robert Alverson, Chairman
Bud Boddy, Vice-Chairman
Patricia Barker
Al Burch
Larry Cotter
Jesse Foster
Ron Jolin
Eric Jordan
Jo Kurtz
Rick Lauber

Ray Lewis
Jim O'Connell
Dan O'Hara
Don Rawlinson
Harvey Samuelson
Walt Smith
Tom Stewart
Tony Vaska
Ed Wojack

NPFMC Staff

Jim H. Branson, Executive Director
Clarence Pautzke
Judy Willoughby
Steve Davis
Jim Glock

Ron Miller
Jeff Povolny
Doug Larson
Helen Allen

Support Staff

Thorn Smith, NOAA/GC
James Brooks, NMFS
Phil Chitwood, NMFS
Choate Budd, USCG
Steve Pennoyer, ADF&G
Loh-Lee Low, NWAFC

Fred Gaffney, ADF&G
Russ Nelson, NWAFC
Kirk Beiningen, ODFW
Craig Hammond, NMFS
Gary Stauffer, NWAFC
Michael Dean, ADF&G

General Public

David Harville
Alan D. Rowe
Ken Kobayashi
Kelly Gay
Bob Thorstensen
Tadashi Nemoto
Bruce Jenkinson
Han Mo Kim
Donald Swisher
Iliodor Philemenof
Georeg Matsuo
Walter Johnson
Hitoshi Kase
Chris Mitchell
Chuck Kekoni
Barry D. Collier
Arne Lee
Ole Harder

Don Martens
Colin F. W. Foster
M. Okomoto
Nancy Lix
Dennis Petersen
Dan Bedemann
John Schmidtke
Mick Stevens
Paul MacGregor
Flore Lekanof, Sr.
Rick Lestawshi
Ralph Watson
Rodger T. Davies
Peter J. Moore
Yuuji Niimi
Jay D. Hastings
Sig Mathiesen
Hugh Reilly

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Mark S. Lundsten
Paul Folley
Barbara Hotchkin
Toru Kufui
Pat Corbett
Debra Hall
Allan Adasiak
Ron Hambrick
Richard Jackarof
Hiroshi Iwe

Marvin Bellamy
Kirk Rulzecheck
Werner Muschekeit
Masaru Okaoto
Vern Hall
Eric Sutcliffe
Francis Y. Marshall
Perfenia Pletnikoff, Jr.
Zlarion Pletnikoff

A. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Harold Lokken, Vice-Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 28, 1983. Mr. Lokken introduced the two newly-appointed Council members, Sara Hemphill and John Winther. He also introduced Alan Rowe, Don Marten's replacement at the Canadian Consulate in Seattle, John Beckman of the West German company of Hochseefischerei Nordstern, and Matsuru Okomoto of the Japan Fisheries Association.

Agenda

Jim Branson requested that a discussion of the Portugese offer to buy fish from the Alaska area in return for joint ventures be added to the proposed agenda. *Jim Campbell moved to approve the agenda with the addition suggested by Mr. Branson. The motion was seconded and carried with no objection.*

Minutes

Bob Mace moved that the minutes of the July meeting be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded and carried with no objection.

Election of Officers

The election of officers was held immediately following approval of the minutes. Notes on this item are found under Agenda C-1.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director's report advised the Council of a letter received from several leaders of the Northwest fishing industry asking the Council to re-evaluate some of its procedures for developing amendments. Mr. Branson advised that the staff already was reviewing these procedures and plans to have specific recommendations available in December.

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Chairmen's Meeting

A proposed agenda for the November 2-4 Chairmen's Meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi was included in the Council notebooks. Mr. Branson has asked that conflict of interest and OMB review of Council actions be added to the agenda.

Conflict of Interest

NOAA General Counsel in Juneau is working with his Washington, D.C. counterpart to obtain an exemption from the conflict of interest statute for Council members. The Alaska Legal Services suit on the halibut moratorium is still active and depositions are still pending from some Council and AP members and the Executive Director.

Other Meetings and Conferences

The Fisheries Law Symposium will be held October 21-22 in Seattle; the Council has five reservations for this symposium. In addition, the Fish Expo is scheduled for October 26-29 in Seattle and the Council will share a booth with Sea Grant, ADF&G, United Fishermen of Alaska and Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute.

The Council will not have a representative at the FAO conference in Rome. The original delegation of 13 was reduced to six; this eliminated representation from either of the Pacific coast councils. The conference, "Biological Interactions Among Marine Mammals and Commercial Fisheries in the Southeastern Bering Sea," which the Council is co-sponsoring with the Marine Mammal Commission, is scheduled for October 18-21 in Anchorage. The U.S. Section of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission will meet in Anchorage November 1-4.

The Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission meets November 7-8 and the Pacific Council meets November 9-10 in Boise, Idaho. Mr. Branson requested to attend both meetings in conjunction with his return trip from the Chairmen's Meeting. The U.S./Japanese meeting on joint ventures for 1984 is expected to be held sometime in the first half of November, and will give the Council most of the information needed to estimate joint venture requirements for next year.

Mr. Branson advised the Council that a group photo of the Council would be taken during the morning break.

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G

ADF&G estimates that 290,000 chinook salmon were harvested in Southeastern Alaska in 1983. That estimate includes 30,000 in the winter troll fishery, 240,000 in the summer troll fishery, and 20,000 in the seine and gillnet fisheries. About 1,930,000 coho salmon were caught in 1983, including 1,280,000 in the summer troll fishery and 650,000 in the net fisheries.

The statewide domestic catch of sablefish was approximately 2,353 mt. By area, 1,805 mt came from the Eastern Gulf; 276 mt from the Central Gulf; 70 mt from the Western Gulf; and 202 mt from the Bering Sea.

U.S. fishermen caught 44,705 mt of Pacific cod off Alaska, 41,383 mt from the Bering Sea, 3,268 mt from the Central Gulf, and 54 mt from other areas.

The statewide domestic catch of pollock totaled 207,765 mt, including 76,588 mt from the Bering Sea, 189 mt from the Western Gulf, and 130,988 mt from the Central Gulf.

B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by NMFS

By September 10 foreign fleets in the Gulf of Alaska had caught 65,074 mt of groundfish or about 41% of the current foreign allocation for that area. The catch included 25,544 mt pollock, 17,786 mt Pacific cod, 9,235 mt Atka mackerel, 3,332 mt Pacific Ocean perch, 4,581 mt flounders, 1,872 mt sablefish, and 2,724 mt other species.

In the Bering Sea and Aleutians they had caught 774,340 mt, about 68% of the current foreign allocation. The catch included 638,739 mt pollock, 24,667 mt Pacific cod, 1,563 mt sablefish, 645 mt Pacific Ocean perch, 95,304 mt flatfish, and 13,222 mt other species. There were 239 foreign vessels off Alaska on September 21, 221 from Japan, 15 from South Korea, two from Taiwan and one from West Germany. U.S. observer coverage on foreign fishing vessels has averaged around 41% in the Gulf of Alaska and 38% in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands area. In the joint venture fisheries, the coverage has been 77% and 56% for the Gulf and Bering Sea/Aleutians, respectively.

B-4 Enforcement and Surveillance Report by U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard reported five infractions by foreign vessels since July 21. A South Korean trawler failed to quickly return halibut to the sea, a Russian trawler fished in U.S. waters despite a ban on Soviet fishing, and a South Korean longliner and a Japanese trawler failed to maintain accurate catch logs.

In addition, the Coast Guard seized a Canadian fishing vessel, HAPPY QUEEN, near Dixon Entrance on July 21 for fishing without a valid permit. The boarding team found 2,300 pounds of salmon.

Efforts to enforce IPHC regulations totaled 24 cutter days and 359 aircraft hours. This effort resulted in 921 sightings of U.S. halibut fleet vessels and 43 vessel boardings. Twenty violations were detected. The catch of the F/V REGINA was seized because the vessel was fishing without a valid IPHC license.

B-5 Joint Venture Operations

The total joint venture catch off Alaska through September 3, 1983 was 334,267 mt. In the Gulf of Alaska, 136,086 mt of pollock and other species were harvested, using 21 foreign and 38 U.S. vessels, while in the Bering Sea/Aleutians, 18 foreign vessels and 45 U.S. vessels harvested 198,181 mt, including 138,611 mt pollock, 33,819 mt flatfish, 13,567 mt Pacific cod, and 10,419 mt Atka mackerel. Three foreign and nine U.S. vessels are currently operating in the Gulf of Alaska.

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 Election of Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Bob Mace nominated Jim Campbell as Chairman and Harold Lokken as Vice-Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Jeff Stephan. Both were unanimously elected to one-year terms. In his opening remarks to the Council, Mr. Campbell referred to the industry letter mentioned in the Executive Director's report and said he feels the letter raises some valid points and he feels the Council should review Council procedures and make improvements where possible.

C-2 Halibut Fisheries Management

Recap of Fishery

Steve Hoag, IPHC, said that the 1983 halibut fishery was characterized by extremely high catch rates and continuing expansion of fishing effort. The 1983 combined catch quota was 30.6 million pounds; the catch will probably exceed the quota by 5 to 5.5 million pounds.

Southeast area fishermen took nearly twice the Southeast quota in a 5-day fishery. The quota in area 3B west of Kodiak was exceeded by about 2.5 million pounds in a 3-day season. In area 4A in the Bering Sea, approximately twice the quota was taken and in area 4B, 24 boats caught over 1 million pounds in an additional 8-day season.

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Mr. Hoag feels that the short seasons are a result of the high catch rates and expanding effort in the fishery. Preliminary analyses indicate a 30 percent increase in fishing effort this year. The seasons were predicated on the moratorium being in place to restrict new entries into the fishery. The use of circle hooks which are about 50 percent more effective than the straight-shanked hooks normally used also increased the catch and shortened the seasons.

Bob McVey asked whether, through setting seasons and quotas, it will be possible to avoid adversely affecting stocks next year, given the amount of effort. Mr. Hoag said that can be done through setting one-day openings. These would protect stocks, but would not be best for the fishermen. The IPHC is in the process of discussing management alternatives for next year.

Report of Halibut Workgroup

Ron Miller reported on the Halibut Workgroup's September 7-8 meeting. The Workgroup recommended the following management objectives for the Council's consideration:

1. Distribute the hook and line halibut fishery in time and space to insure conservation of all components of the stock.
2. Preserve halibut as a hook and line fishery.
3. Retain the International Pacific Halibut Commission as the primary management authority in cooperation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council as established by the 1979 Protocol amending the Convention between the U.S. and Canada for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, and the Northern Pacific Act of 1982.
4. Provide high quality fresh and frozen fish to the consumer throughout the year.
5. Develop the means for reducing the taking of incidentally-caught, non-targeted species by all gear types.

The Workgroup discussed management methods available to achieve these objectives. Two general approaches to halibut management were advocated during those discussions: one group believed that traditional management methods were adequate and the other supported the implementation of a moratorium on new entrants into the fishery coupled with a permanent limited entry system. The Workgroup was unable to agree on a preferred management method to recommend to the Council to achieve the five general objectives or whether a moratorium should be adopted by the Council in 1984.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Bob Alverson said that the AP generally felt that NMFS-DC has not adequately advised the Council on national policy questions and what the current Administration will or will not accept on the issue of the moratorium. The AP feels that the best solution to the problem (the moratorium) has been rejected by OMB and that at this time the Council can no longer put a cap on the number of new entrants in the fishery. The AP suggested that the Council endorse a traditional management program that incorporates the Workgroup's recommended objectives.

Public Testimony

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Halibut Fishermen's Assn. and member of the Halibut Workgroup. Mr. Holm agreed with the general objectives suggested by the Workgroup, but said the report of the Workgroup does not reflect the geographic split on the question of limited entry. The CPUE is near an all-time high; halibut are abundant and increasing. He feels a close study of the demographics of the halibut fleet would reveal that it is, and has been, predominantly a combination boat fishery. He does not feel it is wise for the Council to pursue a halibut moratorium or limited entry when a consensus does not exist within the halibut fleet. KHFA feels it would be appropriate for the Council to endorse the general objectives suggested by the Workgroup and the three specific recommendations they feel are necessary to manage the fishery.

Sig Mathisen, Petersburg Vessel Owners' Assn. His group has been active since 1978 in submitting suggestions to the Council to slow the influx of vessels into the halibut fishery and has been active for many years in the IPHC process in developing management systems and maintaining a viable longline fishery. His group is again asking the Council to reissue the moratorium in simpler, straight-forward language with provisions for transferability and state their strong intent to implement an effort control program at the earliest opportunity that will be approved. He presented an option at the Halibut Workgroup meeting for a test limited entry program in one area, IPHC District 2C, using the share-quota system. He also feels that the Halibut Savings Area in the Bering Sea should be retained because it provides a large percentage of the Gulf of Alaska halibut stock.

Barbara Monkiewicz, Kodiak Halibut Fishermen's Assn. She agreed with Mr. Holm about the "geographical split" of the workgroup members and asked the Council to keep that in mind. Ms. Monkiewicz said that even if the Council goes with a moratorium, now that catch-per-unit is so high, traditional management techniques will have to be addressed anyway. KHFA supports development of alternative management techniques. From KHFA's view, the

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Council has these options: (1) resubmit the old moratorium, ignoring the Workgroup's conclusions on the objectives; (2) do nothing; or, (3) (a) work on the five objectives recommended by the workgroup; (b) listen to the AP and the majority of the Workgroup--don't go ahead with limited entry or moratorium at this time; (c) reconvene the Workgroup to address management techniques.

Mark Lundsten, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union & member of Halibut Workgroup. More fishermen are relying on halibut because of problems in other fisheries. As a whole, the fishery has a small gross and cannot sustain the pressure to bail out the other fisheries. He feels the Council should consider a moratorium and limited entry.

Chuck Kekoni, Alaska Assn. of Halibut Fishermen and Seward Halibut Fishermen's Assn, member of Halibut Workgroup. It seems obvious that there is not a concensus on where to go from here. He feels that there are more than enough ways for IPHC to avoid overharvesting the resource. Mr. Kekoni suggested that the Council poll halibut fishermen to get their views on the moratorium, limited entry and alternate methods of management. Traditional management methods are all that are necessary to control the fishery. He suggested that the Council give equal consideration to alternative management methods if they consider limited entry.

Arne Lee, Seattle Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn. His Association is in favor of a moratorium and some form of limited entry. The Council has researched the issues well and understands the halibut fishery. It is important to look at the fishery as a whole; the Council could not possibly please every individual fisherman and the primary consideration should be the stocks.

Henry Mitchell, Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn., representing fishermen of Toksook, Tununak and Nelson Island. These fishermen started fishing two years ago, have participated in the Conference Board of the Halibut Commission, and have a good working relationship with that Commission. They have also supported the concept of a moratorium and have worked diligently toward that effort. They still support that moratorium, along with a limited entry scheme to help save the halibut fishery from destruction; however, they believe that the moratorium will not go forward unless the Council pulls together and influences legislators in Washington to adequately pursue the moratorium. Also, he would appreciate it if the Council would obtain a legal opinion on whether or not the provision that allows for the development of a halibut fishery by the Bering Sea villages would be negated since the moratorium has failed. He is also concerned about the incidental harvest of halibut in other fisheries.

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Flore Lekanof and Iliodor Philemonof, St. George Tanaq Corp. The fishermen of the St. George Island area caught 100,000 pounds of halibut in a 3-week period; 93,000 pounds of halibut was sold domestically. This fishery made a favorable impact on their economy and closing the season so soon was a disservice to their fishermen. Mr. Philemonof said that 400,000 pounds was not enough for their area; there should be a mechanism to safeguard their area and allow their fishermen to expand. Protection of the dayfishery is important until their harbor is completed.

Hank Ostrosky, Naknek. He doesn't feel anyone wants limited entry or that the moratorium would serve any purpose. The Council should get out of halibut fishery management and leave IPHC as the authority.

Paul Folley, Homer. He said he's concerned because the fisheries of Alaska are in a real slump--large crabbers are going out for halibut and putting more pressure on the fishery. He said that it is not possible to put management measures such as a moratorium or limited entry into place without hurting someone, but that a long-term program is needed to deal with the problems of the fishery. He is in favor of limited entry. Homer fought against the share-quota system, but is mostly in favor of some sort of limited entry.

Perfenia Pletnikoff, St. Paul Island. Fishermen in his area caught about 48,000 pounds of halibut in 28 days; they asked for and received another 4-day opening and caught another 10,000 pounds. He asked the Council whether they had received any legal opinion on the developmental fishery north of 56°N latitude. Neither the Commission nor the Council have wanted to deal with this part of the Act.

Mr. Branson reported that the staff has researched the power of the Commission and Council to insure entry into the halibut fishery for the people of western Alaska in the area north of 56°N. Ron Miller, NPFMC staff, advised the Council that the Halibut Act indicates that the Council can exempt residents of north of 56°N from any access limitation system the Council may implement. There is some difference of opinion on what the Council could do if there is no access limitation regulations for the rest of the fishery.

Roger Davies, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union. He still supports moratorium and limited entry. The union has worked for 50 years to preserve and protect the resource. Without limited entry, there is nothing but disaster ahead for the fishery.

End of public testimony.

Harold Lokken presented his suggested revisions to the halibut management objectives proposed by the Halibut Workgroup and

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suggested nine possible options for the management of halibut (a copy of these revisions and suggestions was distributed to the Council).

The Council discussed the objectives and whether they should be sent out for public review immediately because of the time required to implement any proposed course of action before the 1984 halibut season. Several Council members believed that more time is needed to meet with officials in Washington to determine what form of moratorium would be acceptable if the Council should decide to resubmit.

Harold Lokken moved that the Council defer action on the moratorium until the December meeting and in the meantime activate the workgroup, and make contact with OMB and NMFS officials in Washington in order to develop a proposal for the December meeting. The motion was seconded by Keith Specking, but later withdrawn by Lokken with Specking's approval.

Harold Lokken moved that the Council approve the draft objectives for halibut management as acted on by the Halibut Workgroup on September 7. The motion was seconded by Jeff Stephan and carried with no objection.

Bob Mace moved that the Council reaffirm its position in favor of a moratorium in the halibut fishery. John Winther seconded the motion; however Mr. Mace later withdrew the motion with the consent of Mr. Winther.

Keith Specking moved that the Council direct the Workgroup to proceed with the drafting of an acceptable moratorium package with the maximum input from the various segments of the halibut industry. The motion was seconded and carried on a vote of 7 to 4, with Collinsworth, Lokken, Petersen and Stephan voting no.

Don Collinsworth suggested a presentation from IPHC on their proposed management schemes for 1984 at the December Council meeting.

C-3 Update of Relevant Legislation

Ron Miller briefly reviewed current legislation of interest to the Council family including H.R. 5/S. 800, "Outer Continental Shelf Revenue Sharing with States;" H.R. 2061/S. 750, "Implementation of a U.S. Economic Zone;" H.R. 2062, "Amendment to Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972;" H.R. 2853/S. 1238, "Establishment of a National Ocean Policies Commission;" H.R. 3381, "NOAA Organic Act;" H.R. 3806, "U.S. Fisheries Development Act;" and the National Fisheries Marketing Board. Details of these bills were included in the Council notebooks.

C-4 Current Foreign Allocations

Jim Branson advised the Council of problems in timely release of foreign allocations. Japan has had problems with release of their allocations because of their official objection to the International Whaling Commission's moratorium on whaling scheduled to take effect the season of 1985-86. In addition, no releases from reserves had been made although they were to be completed by August.

C-5 Joint Venture Permit Applications

Two permit applications were before the Council for review and recommendation. Spain submitted an application for 1983 for the BAHIA DE LOS BASCOS to receive 8,000 mt cod and 4,000 mt pollock beginning in November 1983 in both the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska. The U.S. party is the Alaska Salt Fish Corporation.

The Council also reviewed the proposed substitution of the Taiwanese vessel CHIEF DRAGON 737 for the HIGHLY 301 to conduct fishing and joint venture operations in the Bering Sea in 1983. A permit application for HIGHLY 301 had been reviewed at the July 1983 Council meeting. However, action was deferred for lack of information. Because of concern over the violations record of the HIGHLY 301, the applicants had substituted the CHIEF DRAGON 737 for consideration by the Council in September.

The Council was also asked to comment on a Portugese joint venture which was in the process of being negotiated. No application had been submitted yet.

Permit Review Committee

Keith Specking reported that the Permit Review Committee recommends approval of the Spanish permit application to receive 8,000 mt cod and 4,000 mt pollock from U.S. fishermen. However, they believe observer coverage should be adequate to insure compliance with U.S. laws.

Recognizing the need for the people of St. George to diversify economically and the opportunity to achieve economic independence, the Permit Review Committee recommended approval of the Taiwanese joint-venture permit application which has been amended to substitute the CHIEF DRAGON 737 for the HIGHLY 301. The Committee stressed that any approval by the Council should clearly state that the slightest infraction of U.S. regulations by the Highly Corporation would mean the end of this operation. Mr. Specking said that the recommendation was made reluctantly because of the long history of enforcement problems and violations by the Highly Corporation.

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The Committee discussed the recent proposal by the Portugese for a direct allocation and felt that the proposal had a lot of merit. They felt it was desirable to encourage the ongoing discussions on this proposal.

Dave Fitch of the NOAA General Counsel's office in Washington, DC, addressed the Council on the Portugese offer to buy 10,000 mt of wet salted cod, 12,000 mt of cod and 20,000 mt of pollock over the side from U.S. fishermen, in exchange for a directed fishery of 8,000 mt of Pacific cod.

Sara Hemphill advised the Council that she is actively involved with with one of the Highly operations in the Gulf of Alaska with Kodiak fishing vessels and may have a conflict of interest.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel voted 11 to 2 with one abstention to recommend approval of the Spanish application although the general concensus was that Spain should be contributing more to the domestic industry by buying product from American processors. The AP voted to recommend against approval of the Taiwanese permit because of the company's poor violation record. After having a presentation on the Portugese proposal, the concensus of the AP was that this is a step in the right direction and encouraged further negotiations.

Public Testimony

Ed Wojeck, Executive Director, Alaska Trollers Assn. Mr. Wojeck said that the Highly Corporation does not have a good record. He was particularly concerned about Taiwanese joint ventures because of the recent information relating to the Taiwan high-seas salmon fishery and felt that this was an opportunity to get information from Taiwan on the high-seas salmon fishery by "holding the joint venture hostage for information."

George Dickson, Alaska Salt Fish Corp. and Mr. Santiago, Bacaladera Vasca Ltd. Mr. Dickson briefed the Council on the proposed Spanish joint venture. Although the Spanish partner is not asking for a directed fishery, they want to encourage onshore processing in the future. Mr. Santiago told the Council that because of the value of the dollar on the world market, they could not commit to buying additional product at this time.

Chuck Bundrant, Trident Seafoods. Mr. Bundrant said he would strongly support the Portugese proposal. He also thinks that Spain should be required to buy product in exchange for their venture.

Michael B. Jones, Pribilof-Highly Seaproducts. Mr. Jones told the Council that they would like to substitute the CHIEF DRAGON 737 for the HIGHLY 301 in their proposed joint venture and

asked the Council to approve the permit application so that they could move forward. Mr. Jones said he would be willing to accept a condition prohibiting the master of the HIGHLY 301 from transferring to the CHIEF DRAGON 737 during this venture.

COUNCIL ACTION

Keith Specking moved that the Council approve the Spanish permit application. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and carried with Don Collinsworth opposing.

Bob Mace moved that the Council approve the Taiwanese permit application with the proviso that the skipper from the HIGHLY 301 would not move to the CHIEF DRAGON 737 for this joint venture, and to direct the Executive Director to specify that if there are any further violations by the Highly Corporation, this joint venture will cease. The motion carried with Jeff Stephan and Don Collinsworth opposing.

Keith Specking moved that the Council send a letter encouraging approval of the Portugese proposal. Bob McVey seconded the motion which carried with no objection.

C-6 Foreign Fees Workgroup Report

Doug Larson reported that the Foreign Fees Workgroup met in Seattle on August 30 to consider recommendations to NMFS on procedures for setting foreign fee schedules. Two specific systems for setting foreign fees, which NOAA had requested comments on, were considered: bidding for allocations and offering discounts for various forms of cooperation by foreign nations. The Workgroup also discussed the use fees as incentives or disincentives and fees as a means of extracting economic surplus. They formulated four objectives a fee system could be designed to achieve:

1. that it should recover at least the minimum amounts required by law;
2. that it could recover costs to domestic fishing interests of foreign fishing;
3. that it could recover economic surpluses foreign fleets realize from fishing in the FCZ; and
4. that it could be used to equalize costs of operation and the competitive position of American fleets relative to foreign fleets.

Each administrative system (bidding, offering discounts, and the present mechanism) was considered in light of its ability to

achieve the four goals listed and its practicability in implementation. The workgroup found that significant problems exist with both the bidding system (allocations are considered outside the fee-setting mechanism under current law) and the discount procedure (measurement and valuation of cooperation are extremely difficult), which appear to make them unworkable under existing legislation. The present system, which is familiar, relatively simple, and does achieve the first objective, cannot easily be improved upon.

The Council also received a report on the Status of the Fisheries Loan Fund which had been requested by the workgroup. The Fund is now the repository for foreign poundage and permit fees, having been amended in 1980. This amendment, under the American Fisheries Promotion Act, changed its purpose from a general loan fund to a "distress loan" fund.

The present balance of the Fund (as of Sept. 30) is some \$60,000,000, which is virtually all of the poundage and permit fee collections of the last three years. Efforts to use this money for distress loans have been largely ineffective, and virtually none has been used in the Northwest or Alaska regions. The outlook for the Fund is uncertain because of the lack of a consensus in Congress over its uses and future.

COUNCIL ACTION

Bob Mace moved that the Council go on record as endorsing the findings of the Foreign Fees Workgroup and send a copy of the report to the NMFS office in Washington, DC. The motion was seconded by Harold Lokken and carried with no objection.

C-7 Conflict of Interest

Debra Smith, Assistant U.S. Attorney, updated the Council on the Weekly vs. Baldrige case in which several Council and Advisory Panel members are accused of conflict of interest. The U.S. Attorney has submitted a motion for dismissal which is still before Judge Fitzgerald at this time. The Plaintiffs are still trying to get a permanent injunction for conflict of interest. The position of the Attorney General is that there is no conflict.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Salmon FMP

Jim Glock told the Council that salmon regulations will be on the agenda for the December and February meetings. The latest catch figures for the Southeast Alaska salmon harvest are under Agenda item B-2. A negotiating session with the Canadians may be held in late November.

Public Testimony

Ed Wojeck, Alaska Trollers Assn, described ATA's fishermen education program to reduce the incidental hooking of king salmon. The program stressed avoiding areas of high king salmon abundance and the use of lighter leader material and less durable hooks. Mr. Wojeck also described the ATA suit against the Secretary of Commerce to open the FCZ after it had been closed to all trolling. ATA felt that the FCZ closure would force fishing effort into near-shore areas where chinooks are more abundant, thus increasing the incidental catch.

Eric Jordan, Sitka. Mr. Jordan told the Council he had an ADF&G troll observer on his boat for five days during the coho-only troll season. During that time, they caught no legal-size king salmon that had to be released. He feels that the trollers were able to reduce their chinook incidental catch this year because ATA advised trollers on how to avoid hooking king salmon and because key "king salmon hot spots" were identified and avoided. He disagreed with the NMFS decision to close the FCZ in order to minimize the king salmon catch.

D-2 Herring FMP

At the May meeting the Council directed the PDT and NMFS to prepare final drafts of two alternative Herring FMPs. The first alternative includes all the management measures already tentatively approved by the Council, including an Allowable Incidental Catch (AIC) provision for foreign fishermen. However, NOAA General Counsel has advised that AIC for foreigners is probably not legal and recommended that a Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) be established instead, as in the second version of the FMP before the Council. The PSC version establishes herring as a prohibited species for foreigners and establishes a PSC for each nation. The OY definition was modified to clarify the distinction between foreign harvest and domestic harvest. The Council was provided a summary of each alternative FMP in their notebooks. Proposed implementing regulations, the Environmental Impact Statement, and a Regulatory Issues Paper were also before the Council for approval.

The Council staff and NMFS recommended two changes to the FMP and regulations prior to approval. First, establish a standardized April 1 allocation date to simplify regulations governing the Herring Savings Area closure; second, add a weekly radio reporting requirement for fishermen who don't fill out an ADF&G fish ticket or sell to a joint venture processor.

Jim Glock also briefly reviewed the July 1983 Weststad/Fried Report on the productivity of Pacific herring in the Eastern Bering Sea. The Council had received a copy of the report at the July 1983 Council meeting.

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The Council received a proposal from the North Pacific Vessel Owners' Association (NPVOA) for a January-April 1984 offshore winter herring research fishery. They requested an allocation of 10,000 mt for a totally domestic operation using both offshore and onshore processors. This would be an "experimental" fishery and the NPVOA offered to conduct operations in a manner which would generate scientific data, including providing space for scientific research personnel on board.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Richard Marasco reported that the SSC reiterates its position that the FMP submitted for Secretarial review in March 1982 is preferable to the two FCZ-only alternatives now being considered. The SSC could see no scientific merit in establishing herring as a prohibited species, but supported the change in timing of allocation of AIC. The SSC also supported the addition of a weekly radio reporting requirement for FCZ fishermen who don't fill out an ADF&G fish ticket or sell to a joint venture processor.

The SSC reviewed the report by Fried and Wespestad and concurred that their computer model provides some useful insights into the effects of various fishing patterns upon herring productivity and yield. The SSC cautioned that it was necessary for the authors to make certain assumptions in the model regarding offshore stock mixing, school aggregations and harvest effects. Although information is inadequate to substantiate these assumptions, the SSC felt the overall approach was conservative.

The SSC considered the proposal by NPFVOA for a January-April 1984 offshore winter herring research fishery of 10,000 mt and felt that using the Fried-Wespestad modeling exercise in evaluating the potential impact of such a fishery on an annual basis would be useful. The SSC recommended that the PMT or an expanded scientific committee meet in order to evaluate the merits of the industry proposal.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP discussed the proposed NPFVOA research fishery and recommended denial of the request. They felt that the 10,000 mt request was excessive; if the amount was less they may have had a different recommendation. They recommended asking the PMT to come up with a research plan for the high seas fishery. A number of AP members were totally opposed to any offshore herring fishery because of the possible impact on the coastal fishery.

Public Testimony

Dennis Petersen, NPFVOA, stated his organization would be willing to discuss the details of the proposed winter research fishery with the Council or a subgroup. This would include working out

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an acceptable level of harvest. He agrees with the SSC's opinion that reduction of the offshore allocation is not a conservation issue. OY should apply to all herring, offshore and inshore.

Flore Lekanof, Sr. and Iliodor Philemenof, St. George Tanag Corp. They are interested in the year-round fishing industry and feel research should be done on what impact an offshore fishery would have on the inshore fishery.

Mick Stevens, Marine Resources. Not much progress has been made on herring research in the last three years, and he feels that an experimental fishery would be one way to start the process. Recent groundfish surveys and the Weststad model indicate that a research fishery could be carried out without a significant impact on the inshore fishery.

Henry Mitchell, Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn. He favors the PSC version of the proposed Herring FMP. In regard to the proposed herring research fishery, he is not sure a commercial operation would supply the necessary information. Research should be done, but by a bonafide research vessel.

Eric Jordan, Sitka. Mr. Jordan feels that research on the origin of herring stocks in the Bering Sea should also include a study of the origin of chinook stocks which feed on them. If Asian chinooks are present, perhaps a directed U.S. fishery could be established, preferably a troll fishery. He feels herring should be treated as a prohibited species.

End of public testimony.

Thorn Smith, NOAA General Counsel, said that if the Weststad/Fried report could be viewed as new, best scientific information, then it may be necessary to revise the herring plan to reflect this information; the OY calculation in the plan may no longer be in line with the best scientific evidence. If the Council wants to allocate a portion of that OY to an experimental fishery, that would be approvable; however, making a experimental fishery "apportionment" outside the FMP's OY would probably not be legal.

Harold Lokken suggested that these issues could be taken up by the Herring Workgroup. Mr. Smith said that the first thing to be determined is whether or not the information in the Weststad/Fried report is the best scientific information available. If there is another 10,000 mt available over what was calculated in the FMP, then it may be possible to harvest that without the necessity of an experimental fishery.

Dr. Marasco said that the Weststad/Fried report shows that the approach of the FMP is very conservative, that a less conservative approach could be used without substantially increasing the risk of overexploitation.

COUNCIL ACTION

Don Collinsworth moved that the Council reaffirm its original position on the Herring FMP, using the PSC alternative and including the radio reporting requirement and the PSC year from April 1 to March 31, and that the change from AIC to PSC does not affect U.S. fishermen and those foreign vessels participating in joint ventures. Bob McVey seconded the motion, which passed 6-5. Bob Mace, Harold Lokken, Rudy Petersen, Sara Hemphill and Gene Didonato voted against the motion.

Gene Didonato moved that the Council accept the SSC recommendation to have the SSC, PMT and a subgroup evaluate the industry proposal for a January-April 1984 offshore winter herring research fishery at the level of 10,000 mt and have a recommendation for the Council at the December meeting. The subgroup should also seek some verification of the legal ramifications of such an experimental fishery. The motion was seconded and passed with John Winther objecting. Al Millikin was appointed chairman of the group.

Bob McVey moved that the Council approve the implementing regulations for the Bering Sea/Chukchi Sea Herring FMP. The motion was seconded by Jeff Stephan and carried unanimously.

D-3 King Crab FMP

Steve Davis told the Council that if the King Crab FMP, which was originally submitted for Secretarial review on May 25, 1982 and updated on August 18, 1983, were withdrawn and resubmitted on the amended MFCMA fast-track review schedule, the FMP could possibly be implemented by March 1984.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP suggested that the Council ask Bob Otto to review and initiate research designed to find out what has happened to the king crab stocks and report his progress to the Council in December.

Public Testimony

Barry Collier and Dennis Petersen, NPFVOA. Mr. Collier said that fishermen are unaware of the proper procedural steps for submitting proposed regulations to the Council or Board and do not know whether there will be recourse after the Board has taken action. Mr. Petersen said it would be helpful if industry had an opportunity to come before the Council on proposed regulations before the Board makes their decisions.

The Council discussed the aspects of the framework plan and the consensus was that the Council and Board should work together to

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devise a system that will work smoothly for the Board, Council and industry. The staff is already planning to meet with the Board and Mr. Campbell asked Keith Specking to work with the staff on this.

Bob Otto briefly reviewed his report, "Preliminary Results of the 1983 Eastern Bering Sea Crab Survey." Conducted between June 7 and August 6, the survey covered all commercial crab stocks in the Bering Sea except for Norton Sound red king crab. The full report was included in Council notebooks. Mr. Otto said that research would not solve any of the problems of the fishery in the short term; it will take a long-term project to determine what is happening with the stocks and little recovery can be expected in the crab fishery within the next five or six years.

COUNCIL ACTION

Don Collinworth moved that the Council withdraw the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King Crab FMP and its supporting documents from Secretarial review and resubmit the updated FMP and its supporting documents for fast-track Secretarial review. Bob Mace seconded the motion which passed 10-1, with Rudy Petersen voting against.

D-4 Tanner Crab FMP

Steve Davis and Doug Larson reviewed Amendment 10, which would establish two new exclusive registration areas (Alaska Peninsula and Southeastern) and set a 200-pot limit in the Kodiak district. A Regulatory Issues Paper (RIP), outlining the primary issues and economic impacts of the proposed measures, was presented.

The analysis suggested that there may be no significant conservation or allocation effects attributable to the proposed amendment, and that there may be difficulty in justifying the limit by standards in Executive Order 12291 and the Magnuson Act. The RIP also indicated that the stated objectives of reducing the fishing pressure and handling stress on crab stocks and lengthening the season in the Alaska Peninsula will not be met in the long run by designating it as an exclusive registration area. The RIP also concluded that making the Southeastern regulatory areas exclusive has no apparent benefit as long as the Tanner crab season there coincides with the rest of the Tanner crab seasons around Alaska.

Steve Davis also reported that Amendment 9 and supporting documents, approved by the Council for Secretarial review at the July 1983 meeting, will be sent to Washington, D.C. in the next few weeks.

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Amendment 8, which eliminated many regulatory inconsistencies between the Tanner Crab FMP and federal and state regulations, was partially approved by the Secretary on August 18, 1983. The portion of the amendment which would establish a Tanner crab pot limit of 250 in the Kodiak area and a 175-pot limit in Prince William Sound, was disapproved because it was not considered consistent with National Standard 7. Other reasons cited for disapproval included the lack of adequate information justifying the proposed pot limits.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC reviewed Amendment 10 to the Tanner Crab FMP and recommended the Council not approve it. The SSC concluded that (1) the amendment will not meet the objective for which it was designed; (2) there is at least a question as to whether they can be enforced; and (3) that given the experience with Amendment 8 they feel certain this amendment will not make it through the system.

The SSC felt that Amendment 10 does have a positive and beneficial result in that it would provide for desirable conformity between state and federal regulations. The objective of conformity in regulations is important enough that the Board and Council should consider carefully how future regulations can be promulgated with assurance that they meet national standards and achieve the goals desired. The Board and Council should consider and agree on goals and objectives before detailed regulations are drafted.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP voted 12 to 1 in favor of the exclusive registration areas in the Southeast and Alaska Peninsula areas and to limit the number of crab pots in the Kodiak area to 200.

Public Testimony

Paul Gronholdt, Peninsula Marketing Assn., Sand Point, reported the fishermen in the Sand Point and King Cove area are in favor of the exclusive registration areas in Amendment 10. He feels that Option 2, which would be to disapprove the Amendment, is invalid because the main premise (that there would be more local boats and conservation would not be helped) is wrong. He doesn't feel there are any new local boats available to enter the fishery.

Barry Collier and Dennis Petersen, NPFVOA. NPFVOA opposes pot limits and exclusive registration areas. They asked the Council to consider the SSC's opposition to this Amendment.

COUNCIL ACTION

Don Collinsworth moved that the Council adopt Amendment 10 and move it forward for Secretarial review. The motion was seconded by Jeff Stephan and failed, 6 to 5. Bob Mace, Harold Lokken, Bob McVey, Rudy Petersen, Sara Hemphill, and Gene Didonato were opposed.

D-5 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

Jeff Povolny reported on the Prohibited Species Working Group meeting of August 31, 1983. The issue of most concern to the group was the incidental catch of prohibited species by domestic fishermen. Because of the poor quality of that data, the Workgroup agreed that the prohibited species catch by U.S. fishermen should be treated separately from that by the foreign fisheries. The report from the Phase I exercise of the Workgroup is completed and the Council was provided with a summary. The complete report will be mailed to the Council family within the next two weeks.

The Workgroup asked for Council direction on Phase II of the study to determine methods to reduce the prohibited species catch in the foreign and joint venture fisheries.

The Council was given estimated groundfish needs for 1984 based on an NMFS survey of the domestic industry. These should be sent out for public review. Final estimates will be available at the December Council meeting.

Dr. Loh-Lee Low reviewed the status of the 1983 Gulf of Alaska groundfish stocks. The complete PMT report was included in the Council notebooks.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC reviewed the summary of the Phase I report prepared by the Prohibited Species Working Group and determined that a need exists to:

1. examine methods to reduce incidental catches that occur in the foreign and joint-venture fisheries, and
2. explore ways of obtaining accurate estimates of incidental catches and mortalities associated with the domestic fishery so that these catches can be reduced.

The SSC concurred with the workgroup's request that it be allowed to proceed with Phase II of its study.

The SSC also reviewed the PMT report on the status of stocks and expressed concern with the practice of setting OY for cod and flounders at a low level as a halibut savings measure. The SSC recommended that the Team examine the economic and biological

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implications of setting OYs in this manner. It was also brought to the attention of the SSC that the catches of most species have not equalled the OY and they recommended that the PMT work with the NMFS Regional Office and foreign fishing representatives to determine the reasons and suggest possible solutions.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel discussed foreign fishing activity in the Trinity Island area and recommended that public hearings be held on a regulation to close the foreign directed sablefish fishery westward from 140° W. longitude to the Trinity Island area. On the Gulf of Alaska pollock, codfish and sablefish fisheries, the AP feels that within one more year it may be possible that there will not be sufficient pollock for both a foreign fishery and domestic needs in the Gulf of Alaska. The same may be true with codfish. The AP also recommended that the Council direct the Prohibited Species Workgroup to continue with Phase II of their study.

Public Testimony

Paul MacGregor, Japanese Longline Assn. He has some problems with the projected figures for DAH, JVP and DAP for 1984 and will be submitting comments for the December Council meeting. Referring to the AP's suggestions for the Central Gulf, Mr. MacGregor said that domestic activity is far below the OY level in the area and the Japan Longline Assn. is willing to design foreign fishing effort around U.S. effort in order to avoid the necessity of wholesale area closures. He feels U.S. fishermen are far away from the capacity to harvest the full optimum yield.

Donald Swisher, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn. and Hokuten Trawlers Assn. In December they may have some numbers which would justify a possible raise in pollock OY in the Gulf of Alaska.

COUNCIL ACTION

Harold Lokken moved that the Council direct the Gulf of Alaska Prohibited Species Workgroup to proceed with Phase II of the study focusing on developing methods of reducing the catch of prohibited species by improving the data base in the U.S. fishery. It was clarified that disincentives would be a part of the workgroup's considerations. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and carried with no objection.

Bob Mace moved that the Council send out for public comment the proposed 1984 DAPs and estimated joint venture processing figures as presented by the PMT. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey and carried with no objection. (The tables of figures are included as Appendix I to these minutes.)

D-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands FMP

Amendment 1

The Council reviewed part of Amendment 1 which changed the beginning date of the foreign trawl closure in the Petrel Bank from January 1 to seven days prior to the opening of the king crab season to avoid the incidental catch of king crab by trawling. The change had been suggested by NMFS as a comment on Amendment 1. Although the NMFS comment was included in the May 1982 Council notebooks, it was not clear from the motion approving Amendment 1 whether this suggestion was adopted. In order to clarify the Council's intent, it was suggested that the Council reaffirm their motion.

1984 TAC, DAP, JVP

The PMT submitted a Resource Assessment Document to the Council in July that provided the biological basis for setting groundfish Total Allowable Catches (TACs). Domestic annual processing (DAP) and joint venture processing (JVP) for 1984 will be based on the 1983 DAP and JVP harvests, plus any additional amounts necessary for the 1984 domestic fishery. NMFS has conducted a survey of the domestic industry to determine U.S. industry needs for 1984. Those numbers are included in Council notebooks. A summary of a report from Natural Resources Consultants on the Pacific cod resource in the FCZ off Alaska and projections for U.S. utilization during 1983-86 was also provided. The report was submitted for Council consideration when proposing and finalizing the 1984 DAPs and JVPs for Pacific cod.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

With respect to the Petrel Bank closure, the SSC felt that area closures to resolve gear conflicts and grounds preemptions should be viewed as measures of last resort. The SSC prefers that conflicts be worked out among foreign and domestic fishermen. And, concerning incidental catches of prohibited species, the SSC was not convinced that this closure was warranted, especially in light of Amendment 3 that had the express purpose of reducing prohibited species catches by foreign trawlers.

The SSC recommended that the PMT adjust TAC Option 1 to reflect current stock conditions. In the future, the SSC recommends that the PMT include a preface to the RAD explaining that the reported EYs and OYs are preliminary and will be adjusted as more current information becomes available. The SSC also reviewed the NRC report on Pacific cod and found the analysis informative and scientifically sound. The SSC suggested that the Council should consider banking fish during 1984 by reducing TALFF. Recent allowable catch projections suggest that the need for banking, while not necessary at present, could be considered in the future.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP reported that they were in favor of maintaining January 1 as the beginning date for the Petrel Bank closure.

Public Testimony

Jay Hastings, Japan Fisheries Assn. On Amendment 1, he questioned the wording between the original document and those submitted. During a meeting in Juneau, all of the differences of opinion were resolved, but it was agreed that some of the regulations needed to be changed to properly reflect the intent of the FMP. He asked the Council to approve the agreed-upon wording in Section 11 of the FMP.

The original FMP enforced a closure in the Petrel Bank area between 3 and 12 miles from January 1 to June 30. Amendment 1 was originally a multi-species OY amendment, however along the way technical and regulatory-type changes had been made. The first time it came to his attention that there would be a change in the Petrel Bank time closure was following the May 1982 Council meeting when the amendment package was submitted to Washington, DC. He doesn't think that the AP, SSC or the Council discussed the NMFS proposal for the change of dates. He asked the Council to maintain the status quo and he also recommended that the Council staff be requested to submit a comment on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to eliminate the regulation extending the time closure.

Mr. Hastings disagrees with the Council staff on the area closure. From the time this amendment package started there was never any notice to the public on any proposed change in the closure of the area between 12 miles and the lines delineating the Petrel Bank area. He would like the Council to pull that part out of the amendment package and start all over again. Next year, there will be 100% observer coverage which will provide very good data on prohibited species catches. Foreign representatives have also been working with the fishermen in the Petrel Bank area to avoid gear conflicts this year and the Japanese and Koreans have agreed to completely stay away from that area.

Donald Swisher, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn. and Hokuten Trawlers Assn. Mr. Swisher encouraged the Council to seriously consider an amendment which would increase the OY to the level that could be achieved biologically.

Lee Alverson, Natural Resource Consultants. Mr. Alverson commented on the NRC report on Pacific cod. The portions of the report dealing with the status of the resource and yield potential were drawn largely from information developed by NWAFC and if more recent evaluations have been made, then the report

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will have to be modified accordingly. It's unfortunate that the data base is rapidly changing, but as scientists this has to be expected since it is a somewhat young fishery. Mr. Alverson feels the Council needs to evaluate its OYs regarding Pacific cod very carefully and put them in perspective in terms of the biological data and rapidly expanding U.S. fisheries over the next several years.

Barry Collier and Dennis Petersen, NPFVOA. The Pacific cod fishery is expanding rapidly and industry feels it is necessary to make this a totally American fishery as soon as possible. They have the catching capacity and the only thing holding them back is marketing, which is also rapidly coming on line. The Council should give very careful consideration to making the Pacific cod fishery a totally American fishery in 1984.

COUNCIL ACTION

Bob Mace moved that the Council maintain the status quo in regard to the Petrel Bank closure of January 1. Rudy Petersen seconded the motion which carried with no objection.

Harold Lokken moved to reaffirm the area closure for the area known as Petrel Bank as shown in the original FMP. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey and carried with no objection.

Rudy Petersen moved that the Council send out for public comment the proposed 1984 TACs for the groundfish fishery that are based on the equilibrium yields in Table A, revised on 9/27/83, and are prorated so that the total equals 2 million metric tons. Bob Mace seconded the motion which carried with no objection.

Bob Mace moved that the Council send out for public comment the 1984 Projected DAPs and 1983 JVPs contained in Table 1 [item D-6(d)] as the proposed 1984 DAPs and JVPs. The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and carried with no objection.

Gene Didonato moved to reaffirm that the Council has no objection to the language of Sections 11-14 of Amendment 1. The motion was seconded by Keith Specking and carried with no objection.

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee, upon the recommendation of the SSC, approved the final reports of Contracts 81-5, "Incidental Salmon Catch Study," subject to certain adjustments with \$40,000 follow-on to conduct additional work, and 82-3, "An Economic Profile of the Southeast Alaska Salmon Industry." Funding was approved for the Lowell Wakefield Symposium on King Crab for \$4,000; the Price Waterhouse audit for \$8,000; and travel and per diem for Jim Campbell to Japan and Korea. The Committee disapproved funding

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for the UFA Compendium, the Net-Marked Salmon Study, and the funds for Halibut Data, and postponed action on sablefish research and golden king crab projects.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC recommended approval of Contract 81-5, subject to certain adjustments and recommended \$40,000 be committed for additional work. Contract 82-3 was also approved by the SSC. The Committee recommended disapproval of the Golden King Crab Study and the Net-Marked Salmon Study because related research is already being done by NMFS and INPFC. The SSC recommended that the list of potential sablefish research projects be sent to NMFS, state agencies and universities to determine the degree of interest before the Council determines research funding needs.

COUNCIL ACTION

Keith Specking moved that the Council accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey and carried with no objection.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no additional public comments.

G. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The Council received word of the hospitalization of Mr. Hajime Nakamura and requested the Executive Director to send a letter expressing concern.

Jim Campbell appointed Barry Collier of NPFVOA to fill the AP position vacated by Dick Goldsmith and presented Tom Stewart with his Certificate of Appointment to the Advisory Panel.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.